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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 5, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 31 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 9.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 35 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 595.4 billion ton-miles, down 5.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 31 totaled 391,358, down 8.5 percent from last year, but 2.0 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 8.2 percent in the East, 10.3 percent in the South and 7.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 16,559 cars (12.3 percent) and grain traffic showed a decline of 13,282 cars (38.7 percent). Motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up by 3,241 cars (16.9 percent). Sixteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 24 totaled 92,542 trailers and/or containers, 2.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 34 weeks of the year was 2,890,714 trailers and/or containers, down 2.6 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/31/85:

	Loadings in Week ended August 31, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,001	D	13,282	38.7	I	2,130	11.3
Other farm products	2,522	D	119	4.5	D	25	1.0
Metallic ores	13,205	D	5,794	30.5	D	877	6.2
Coal	117,569	D	16,559	12.3	I	336	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,813	I	948	7.4	I	114	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	10,671	D	2,872	21.2	D	890	7.7
Grain mill products	10,703	I	299	2.9	I	336	3.2
Food and kindred products	11,416	I	157	1.4	I	266	2.4
Primary forest products	10,674	D	2,962	21.7	D	274	2.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,415	D	208	2.7	I	228	3.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,845	D	1,247	8.3	I	286	2.1
Chemicals and allied products	24,933	D	898	3.5	I	536	2.2
Petroleum products	4,824	I	116	2.5	D	20	0.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,018	D	350	3.1	I	214	2.0
Coke	5,309	I	549	11.5	I	267	5.3
Metals and products	9,399	I	290	3.2	I	1,301	16.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,379	I	3,241	16.9	I	1,392	6.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,175	I	212	2.4	I	328	3.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,198	D	978	12.0	I	143	2.0
All other carloads	64,103	I	3,130	5.1	I	2,006	3.2
LCL traffic	186	I	42	29.2	I	31	20.0
Total Cars Loaded	391,358	D	36,285	8.5	I	7,828	2.0
Corresponding week of 1984	427,643						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (35 weeks)	13,069,806	13,870,448	D 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
34 Weeks ended August 24	578.1	607.8	D 4.9
Week ended August 31	17.4	19.1	D 9.0
35 weeks cumulative	595.4	626.9	D 5.0

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